<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for upgrading the schema of a database, comprising:

updating, by the computer, a database update message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through one or more intermediate upgraded versions, wherein updating comprises

receiving an update message having a first version format, and

repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final revised update message having the upgraded version format is generated<u>, wherein generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format includes receiving a first update message and calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message</u>; and

applying, by the computer, the final revised update message to the database to write an upgraded version of the schema of the database.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.

5.   (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method for upgrading the schema of a database, comprising:

updating a database update message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through one or more intermediate upgraded versions, wherein updating comprises

receiving an update message having a first version format, and

generating repeatedly a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final revised update message having the upgraded version format is generated, wherein generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format includes receiving a first update message and calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message; and

applying the final revised update message to the database to write an upgraded version of the schema of the database.

6.   (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The <u>computer readable storage medium</u> ~~article of manufacture~~ of claim 5, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

8. (Currently amended) The <u>computer readable storage medium</u> ~~article of manufacture~~ of claim 7, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is complete set of records for the database.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

      ~~means for~~ <u>a processor; and</u>

      <u>a memory coupled with the processor and storing instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to update</u> ~~updating~~ a database update message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through one or more intermediate upgraded versions, wherein updating comprises

            receiving an update message having a first version format, and

            repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent format based on the update message until a final revised update message having the upgraded version format is generated<u>, wherein generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format includes receiving a first update message and calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message</u>[[;]] and

~~means for applying~~ apply the final revised update message to a database to write

an upgraded version of a schema of the database.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the update message includes a set of

records for a database in the first version.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the set of records for the database in the

first version is a complete set of records for the database.

13.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for upgrading the schema of a database, comprising:

        a network switching device to receive an update message having a first version format,

wherein the network switching device receives a first update message;

        a mapper to call a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the

first update message to generate a second update message; and

        a controller card to update a message from a first version to an upgraded version by

chaining through intermediate upgraded versions, the controller card to repeatedly

generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the

update message until a final revised update message having the upgraded version format is

generated and apply the final upgraded version of the update message to the database to write

an upgraded version of the schema of the database.

14-15. (Canceled)

16.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the update message includes

a set of records for a database in the first version.

17.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of records for the

database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.